

# MEETING OF THE CITY OF RUSHVILLE, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

**MAY 5, 2020**

**6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Common Council of the City of Rushville met on the above date and time at 330 North Main Street Suite 200 Rushville Indiana. Mayor Pavey called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** The Pledge to the Flag was recited by those present.

**PRAYER:** Councilman Berkemeier led those present in prayer.

**ROLL CALL:** Bob Bridges, Brad Berkemeier, Elton Marzon, Mike Daubenspeck, and Aaron Gurley answered roll call. City Attorney, Tracy Newhouse was present via zoom.

**PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2020-7 Establishing a Trash Fee** – Council President Berkemeier sent a summary to Council regarding all comments and answers that were received regarding the trash fee. He said there were approximately 50-55 comments. The main issues were stated as follows:

- 18 bad timing
- 10 fixed income
- 9 quality of service
- 8 wanted to know if they could opt out
- 6 complained water bill is too high
- 4 wanted the effective date delayed
- 1 wanted to get their own service
- 1 wanted Council to find more creative ways for additional revenue
- 1 how will this affect multifamily dwellings
- 3 were positive comments

There were no other comments or questions. Gurley made a motion to close the public hearing. Daubenspeck seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed.

**MINUTES:** Berkemeier made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, and 28, 2020 as presented. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Pavey gave the following report:

1. He will prepare a press release defining opening the City back up to the public. Governor Holcomb extended having zoom/virtual meetings until May 24<sup>th</sup>.

2. Anticipates seeing a decline in some of the City's revenue next year (such as the gas tax). Today we heard from INDOT that there is a 60% traffic reduction. Herdrich Petroleum said their revenue is down 40%. Next year our funding will be more limited.

**CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT:** Copley said she is requesting that all City employees use direct deposit for payroll purposes by June 12, 2020.

Clerk-Treasurer Copley said she would like to publically commend a little girl named Roxie Daubenspeck, (daughter of Councilman Daubenspeck). She asked her parents if they could all pick up trash in the park. She thought if things were cleaned up it would help the Coronavirus go away faster. Copley said she was very impressed that a 7 year old would do this. Thank you, Roxie!

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Nothing to report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Stellar Designation** – Projects are wrapping up.
- **Amphitheater/Park Board** – Concerts are tentatively scheduled to begin in July.
- **APC/BZA** – A report was emailed to Council.
- **Housing** – Equipment will begin moving back in May 11.
- **ECDC** – The task force is working with businesses.
- **Cherry Street** – Waiting on a decision from the Court.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Street** - Commissioner Miller said they have been hauling stone. Berkemeier thanked Miller for providing the totter information.

**Police** –Chief Tucker said he will email the statistics report.

They are in receipt of the new K9. The K9 is a 1.5 year old female Dutch Shepherd. Officer Strobel will begin training with the K9 on Monday for 5 weeks. Strobel has chosen to name the K9 "Reba". The cost of the K9 was \$14,500.00. \$10,000.00 was donated from INTAT. The remaining will come from a reimbursement grant.

**Park** – Director Burklow said they have prepared their policy to open back to the public.

The labyrinth was delivered yesterday.

Stanley will pave the fitness area next week.

The pool structure will be delivered in few weeks.

Dr. Daughtery has advised not to open the pool. The Board of Works said it is not practical to open the pool this year. The Governor said public pools could be open at 50% (which would include the staff) June 14. Marzon said it does not make sense financially for us to open. We would probably get residents from out of town coming to our pool putting everyone more at risk. Daubenspeck made a motion not to open the City pool this year. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Little League** – Burklow asked about opening the Little League ball diamonds. He said they want to start practicing May 24<sup>th</sup> and playing games in June. People want to come from other communities. Burklow said it is similar to the pool situation. We don't want this to cause a spike in the virus. Gurley said we need to use our heads. He said he thought most people would understand we are trying to protect the kids. Gurley made a motion to cancel all ball leagues for the summer. Daubenspeck seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Animal** – Cottrell reported that Kasey and the baby are doing well. She sent the report for April by email. Things are currently pretty quiet. The Humane Society has committed to partner with Cook Family Feed to assistance with cat food in the amount of \$500.00 for those people that are having a hard time purchasing cat food due to Covid 19. The shelter is also offering dog food for anyone in need.

**CITIZEN CONCERNS/COMMENTS:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **Street Light Project – On hold COVID 19** – We will try to get this back on track by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Duke is taking care of new owner. Berkemeier reported that Crystal Woods said the lights are very helpful at night.
2. **Ordinance 2020-8 Downtown Parking** – On hold.
3. **Rushville Revitalization Program-**  
1900 N Main 30 day delay – We will discuss in next few weeks.  
Henderson Road Farm Sale May 5 – One bid was received and tabled.
4. **Resolution 2020-18 Tax Anticipation Warrant** - Gurley moved to introduce the resolution. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. **City of Rushville Public Giving and Community Improvement Corporation 501C.3 Appointments** – The candidates for the appointments have had several questions.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Trane Tax Abatement CF1** – Berkemeier moved to approve the CF1's for Trane. Bridges seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **CF1 Extensions (Due May 10)** – A 45 day extension will be considered with a written request.
3. **Boulders Waiver Russell Brown** – Berkemeier moved to table. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Resolution 2020-20 Reduction in Spending (pool)** - Berkemeier moved to approve Resolution 2020-20. Bridges seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. **Resolution 2020-21 Adding Monies back to Appropriations** – Berkemeier moved to approve Resolution 2020-21. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. **Resolution 2020-22 Temporary Loan to General** – Marzon moved to approve Resolution 2020-22. Berkemeier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **TRASH RELATED:**

1. **Resolution 2020-23 Coordination of Requirements between the City and City Utilities** –Council requested adding “substantial” plumbing renovations to #1. Also to add to #5 “the sanitation department will be informed of any water disconnects so that totters can be removed from the property”. Berkemeier made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-23 with the revisions as stated. Bridges seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Ordinance 2020-14 Chapter 54 Priority of Utility Payments** – Berkemeier moved to approve Ordinance 2020-14. Daubenspeck seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Ordinance 2020-13 Amending Chapter 51 Garbage** – Berkemeier made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-13. Daubenspeck seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. **Ordinance 2020-7 Trash Fee Rate** – Mayor Pavey thanked everyone for their help and effort with this issue. He said this is something that none of us like. It was recognized in 2011 that there would be a shortfall if the City didn't make changes.

Bridges said he understands everyone's point of view. There is never a good time to implement a new fee, but the numbers are pretty glaring that we need to do something earlier than later.

Mayor Pavey said we HAVE to be responsible.

Gurley said nine years is a long time not to address something. He said it was frustrating not to have this conversation before taking this position.

Berkemeier said we have two options to look at. If Council is not ready to take option one then we need to start making cuts tonight for option two. Berkemeier asked do we do away with trash collection altogether and let residents get their own service. He said it would cost more and we won't have any control over the trash condition.

Gurley said jobs have been added decreasing our budget. He said he had no problem looking at option #2.

Marzon said he agrees the fee needs to be implemented. He asked if it would it be possible to move the start date to September and re-appropriate funds. Copley said we have NO FUNDS TO APPROPRIATE.

Berkemeier said there are some things we need to clean up such as how rental properties are treated, people that have been moved to nursing homes, etc. With that being said Berkemeier made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-7 with the fee being enacted as of June 1, 2020. Bridges seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 3-2. Council Members Daubenspeck and Gurley voted "nay".

**COVID 19 Re-Opening Rushville** – Mayor Pavey said he is working with the departments to determine how each of the departments will begin opening the City up to the public.

We have also contacted 438 businesses so far in an effort to see where the ones that have been the hardest hit.

**CLAIMS AND MARCH BANK RECONCILIATION:** Daubenspeck moved to approve the claims and March bank reconciliation as presented. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**ITEMS NOT KNOWN IN ADVANCE:** Berkemeier commended everyone for the good conversations regarding the trash fee.

**ADJOURN:** There was no further business to come before Council; Daubenspeck moved to adjourn. Berkemeier seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.